

I support media diversity

Hello:

The purpose of my post is to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited. The "wide spectrum" mentioned is not accessible to everyone. Our basic television and radio options are not so broad and not so local.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

It appears to me that if these changes are allowed to occur, we will all be listening to the stuff that corporations run by the standard issue white male Republican will rule--stomping out healthy debate over real issues.

The airwaves should not be used solely as marketing tools. Americans are already extremely ill-informed. I wonder what is going into the pockets of those pushing for NON-media diversity? Why would anyone want a country full of obtuse thinkers, who only "know" what they are fed by major corporations?

Thank you for your time,

Cecile Davis Anderson